

BEDSIDE DIAGNOSIS—Third Edition—Charles Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), Physician, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. Edinburgh, 1955. Distributed in the United States by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland. 408 pages, \$4.00.

This small volume would perhaps be better entitled *Bed-side Symptomatology*. It takes up the subject of diagnosis on the basis of selected symptoms in some twenty-two chapters, seven of which are concerned with the subject of pain in general and in different locations. Five chapters are concerned with loss of blood of one kind or another and the remaining ones with certain other principal symptoms such as cough and dyspnea.

The third edition includes the rewrite of some 60 pages, in particular, the sections on hemolytic anemia and jaundice, cirrhosis, subarachnoid hemorrhage, cholecystitis and hiatus hernia. At the beginning of the chapters there is a synopsis which summarizes the chapter well.

This is a small, thoughtful, but incomplete book. For example, the chapter on General Considerations Regarding Pain is quite interesting. On the other hand, only seven pages are devoted to the vast subject of Psychogenic Symptoms and some of these to philosophy; in comparison, twelve pages are given over to the relatively circumscribed topic of dysphagia.

The book was written primarily for British students. It may be commended to American students for purposes of comparison.

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SURGERY OF THE ALIMENTARY TRACT (Bickham-Callander)—Volumes I, II and III—Richard T. Shackelford, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Assisted by Hammond J. Dugan, M.D., Assistant in Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 2575 pages, 1705 illustrations, 89 pages of index, \$60.00.

Thirty years ago the most authoritative book on operative surgery was Bickham's text on Operative Surgery. It represented a six-volume presentation of the techniques of general and special surgery, but there was no evaluation of techniques described and discriminative surgical judgment was unattainable from a study of its contents. Callander began in 1938 to revise Bickham's text, but failed to complete the revision prior to his death in 1947. Shackelford undertook the revision in 1949 and has truly accomplished a superb task in bringing the book up-to-date and adding to an excellent description of the operative procedures a mature and seasoned judgment of their value. This is an excellent reference work for surgery of the alimentary canal, and will be particularly useful in a hospital library wherever surgery is commonly practiced.

The book consists of 3 volumes. Volume 1 deals with the esophagus, stomach, duodenum, liver, gallbladder, and extrahepatic bile ducts. Volume 2 covers the pancreas, spleen, small intestine, peritoneum, omentum, mesentery, colon. Volume 3 concerns itself with the anorectal tract, hernias, and abdominal incisions.

The work is encyclopedic. Practically every procedure which has been described in the literature within the past 10 years in each area is reviewed and discussed, the original illustrations usually accompanying the written discussion. The author has been able to draw heavily on the illustrations of other excellent Saunderson's publications and has richly illustrated the text with clear yet beautiful drawings. Sufficient information is given at the end of each group of available surgical procedures to enable the reader to form a sound judgment as to the relevance and merit of each operation. The references cited at the end of each chapter are well-selected and adequate yet not too numerous. A rapid review of the essentials of the surgical literature of the past

10 years with the original illustrations being copied is available to the reader of this book.

The only real criticism of the book is that it is too lengthy and encyclopedic and that it is too expensive. It is an excellent reference work for all libraries. The author is to be complimented on this masterful accomplishment, and surgery will be benefited for years to come by this assemblage of knowledge.

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SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS—Review of the Literature and Clinical Analysis of 138 Cases—A. McGehee Harvey, M.D., Lawrence E. Shulman, M.D., Philip A. Tumulty, M.D., C. Lockard Conley, M.D., and Edyth H. Schoenrich, M.D., Department of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University and Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. \$3.00.

This is a concise review and a clinical analysis of 138 patients with systemic lupus erythematosus studied in the Department of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. It is republished from *Medicine*, Volume 33, No. 4, December, 1954.

The authors have presented an excellent analysis of the clinical, pathological, and therapeutical aspects of systemic lupus erythematosus. The analysis of the prognosis in systemic lupus erythematosus is the high point of this publication. Unfortunately, the section on treatment is almost out of date because it does not include a discussion of the combined use of antimalarial drugs and steroid therapy.

The authors take the point of view that patients with chronic discoid lupus erythematosus develop systemic lupus erythematosus. This has been a point of controversy in the literature on this subject, but their well-documented material seems to substantiate this point of view.

This book is to be recommended to general practitioners, internists and dermatologists, for an evening's reading time, it provides one with a complete and thorough discussion of all phases of systemic lupus erythematosus.

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PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT OF DISORDERS OF THE LIVER, PANCREAS, AND BILIARY TRACT—John Russell Twiss, M.D., F.A.C.P., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Elliot Oppenheim, M.D., F.A.C.P., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, both of New York University Postgraduate Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1955. 653 pages, \$15.00.

This book is written by clinicians for clinical use. It represents an elaboration of the experiences of the physicians and surgeons of the combined Medical and Surgical Biliary Tract Clinic of the New York University Hospital. The authors state that they wish to furnish a practical guide in the diagnosis and management of those disorders of the liver, pancreas and biliary tract most commonly encountered in medical practice. In this they succeed well—although with certain limitations.

The coverage is not uniform: The subject of the liver gets short shrift with 160 pages as contrasted with almost 210 for the gallbladder and extrabiliary tract. On the other hand, this unevenness has its compensations since it is in the latter field that the authors may write with the greatest authority. In previous work they have explored the usefulness of biliary drainage and the examination of the bile as practical diagnostic procedures. And they have collected a large amount of quantitative data which are summarized in this book.

This is by no means an encyclopedic or complete text. However when accepted as a summarization of the authors' experience and views, this volume may be a very useful addition to the library of the physician interested in conditions of the liver, pancreas and biliary tract.